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REMARKS

Drawings

The Examiner has objected the drawings under 37 CFR 1.83(a). According to the Examiner, the "table producing unit" is not shown in the drawings. This objection is respectfully traversed. The system controller 100 (see Fig. 8) serves as the table producing unit. The specification from page 40, line 14 to page 41, line 1, describes that the system controller 100 collects the audio attribute information from plural VTSs to produce the centralized information table shown in Fig. 6, which corresponds to the claimed "aggregate attribute information table".

35 USC § 112

The Examiner has rejected claims 17 and 18 under 35 USC § 112, first paragraph with respect to the terms "unitary attribute information units" and "unitary attribute information". Claims 17 and 18 have been amended for clarity reasons, to recite "unit attribute information".

In the amended claims 17 and 18, the "unit attribute information" corresponds to the audio attribute information recorded in the control data 11 of each VTS 3, while the "aggregate attribute information" is a unit of attribute information including all of the unit attribute information, e.g. the information 13 shown in Fig. 4.

35 USC § 102

In Section 4 of his Action the Examiner has rejected claims 1-3 and 16 under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Heo et al. This rejection is respectfully traversed. The Examiner is of the opinion that the "audio title information management table" of Heo corresponds to the "aggregate attribute information" of the present claims. However, this is not correct. The "audio title information management table" of Heo corresponds to the elements VTS_AST_ATR or VST_AST_ATRT shown in Figs. 11 and 12 of Heo et

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✓ al. As easily recognizable by their prefix (i.e. VTS_), these elements are recorded in each VTS. As a consequence, the "audio title information management table" of Heo et al corresponds to the "unit attribute information" recorded in each VTS 3 of Fig. 4 of the present application and not to the claimed "aggregate attribute information" (see for example element 13 of the video manager 2 in Fig. 4). As a consequence, claims 1-3 and 16 are not anticipated by Heo et al because Heo et al fails to disclose or suggest the claimed "aggregate attribute information."

→ In Section 5 of his Action the Examiner has rejected claims 1 and 2 under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by the Ludeman article. This rejection is respectfully traversed. The Examiner stated that, since Ludeman shows one control block 2 for all of the audio blocks 3, the control block 2 corresponds to the claimed "aggregate attribute information." However, as shown in the figure of Ludeman, the control block 2 is provided for each track. Therefore, the control block 2 corresponds to the claimed "unit attribute information", and Ludeman fails to teach the claimed "aggregate attribute information" which is a unit of attribute information including all of the unit attribute information.

In Section 6 of his Action the Examiner has rejected claims 1-3 under 35 USC 102(a) as being anticipated by EP 0797205, or EP 0856849 or EP 0855715. All three documents are published European patent applications. The publication date of EP 0797205 is September 24, 1997. The publication date of EP 0856849 is August 5, 1998. The publication date of EP 0855715 is July 29, 1998. However, the present application claims the priority of Japanese Patent Application P09-219418 filed on August 14, 1997. The claim to priority and a copy of the priority document were received by the USPTO on August 10, 1998. See attached copies of the priority claim and of the postcard receipt.

→ See also the attached copy of the English translation of the priority document. The priority date of August 14, 1997 antedates the publication date of the above three

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references. It is therefore submitted that such references cannot be cited as prior art against the present application.

In section 10 of his Action, the Examiner has rejected claims 4-15 under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Heo et al. However, independent claims 4, 7, 10, and 13 recite the presence of "aggregate attribute information". As already explained above, Heo et al does not disclose aggregate attribute information. As a consequence, independent claims 4, 7, 10, and 13 are not anticipated by Heo. Claims 5-6 depend directly or indirectly on claim 4; claims 8-9 depend directly or indirectly on claim 7; claims 11-12 depend directly or indirectly on claim 10; and claims 14-15 depend directly or indirectly on claim 13. Therefore, none of claims 4-15 is anticipated by Heo.

In Section 11 of the Action, the Examiner has rejected claims 4-16 under 35 USC 102(a) as being unpatentable over EP 0797205. This rejection is respectfully traversed. As already stated above, the priority date of the present application (August 14, 1997) antedates the publication date of EP 0797205 (September 24, 1997). As a consequence, such reference cannot be cited as a prior art against the present application.

In Section 13 of the Action, the Examiner has rejected claims 1-5, 7-8, 10-11, 13-14 and 16 under 35 USC 102(a) as being anticipated by EP 0797197. This rejection is respectfully traversed. The publication date of EP 0797197 is September 24, 1997. However, as already explained above, the present application claims the priority of Japanese Patent Application P09-219418 filed on August 14, 1997. This priority date antedates the publication date of the above reference. It is therefore submitted that such reference cannot be cited as prior art against the present application.

In Section 15 of the Action the Examiner has rejected claims 1-5, 7-8, 10-11, 13-14, and 16 under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by EP 0757506. This rejection is respectfully

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traversed. In EP 0757506, the information "VMGM_AST_ATR" is recorded in the video manager. However, this information is related to the menu to be displayed on a monitor. Specifically, "VMGM_AST_ATR" is attribute information of audio stream data for menu, and is not the attribute information for the contents of the DVD. Therefore, EP 0757506 clearly fails to teach or suggest the subject matter of independent claims 1, 4, 7, 10, and 13 in which the aggregate information, which includes all attribute information for the audio information on the disc, is recorded in a single area, like for example the information 13 in the video manager 2, shown in Fig. 4 of the present application. Moreover, claims 2-3 are dependent on claim 1; claim 5 depends on claim 4; claim 8 depends on claim 7; claim 11 depends on claim 10; claim 14 depends on claim 13; and claim 16 depends on claim 1. As a consequence, none of claims 1-5, 7-8, 10-11, 13-14 and 16 is anticipated by EP 0757506.

35 USC 103(a)

In Section 9 of his Action, the Examiner has rejected claim 3 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ludeman as applied to claim 1 and further in view of Heo et al. This rejection is respectfully traversed. Applicant has already stated above the differences between claim 1 and Ludeman and Heo et al, respectively. Claim 3 is dependent on claim 1. As a consequence, claim 3 is deemed to be patentable over Ludeman and further in view of Heo et al.

In Section 10 of his Action, the Examiner has rejected claims 4-15 under 35 USC 103(a) as unpatentable over Heo and further in view of either Yamamoto et al or Yoshio et al. However, neither the combination between Heo et al and Yamamoto et al or Heo et al and Yoshio et al disclose the presence of aggregate attribute information, as recited in the independent claims 1, 4, 7, 10, and 13 of the present application. All other claims 2-3, 6-7, 8-9, and 11-12 are directly or indirectly dependent on one of those claims. As a

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consequence, all claims 4-15 are patentable over Heo et al and Yamamoto et al or Heo et al and Yoshio et al.

In Section 12 of the Action, the Examiner has rejected claims 4-16 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over either EP 0724264 or EP 0856849 and further in view of either Yamamoto et al or Yoshio et al. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

As already stated above, the priority date of the present application antedates the publication date of EP 0856849. As a consequence, such reference cannot be cited as a prior art against the present application.

Moreover, EP 0724264 merely teaches known DVD format. In this document, the information "VMGM_AST_ATR" is recorded in the video manager. However, this information is related to the menu to be displayed on a monitor. Specifically, "VMGM_AST_ATR" is attribute information of audio stream data for menu, and is not the attribute information for the contents of the DVD. No other data relating to attribute information is shown either in EP 0724264 or Yamamoto et al or Yoshio et al. Therefore, the combination of those documents clearly fails to teach or suggest the subject matter of independent claims 4, 7, 10, and 13 in which the aggregate information, which includes all attribute information for the audio information on the disc, is recorded in a single area, like for example the information 13 in the video manager 2, shown in Fig. 4 of the present application.

Moreover, claims 5-6 depend directly or indirectly on claim 4; claims 8-9 depend directly or indirectly on claim 7; claims 11-12 depend directly or indirectly on claim 10; claims 14-15 depend directly or indirectly on claim 13; and claim 16 depends on claim 1. Therefore, all claims 4-16 are patentable over EP 0724264 and further in view of Yamamoto et al or Yoshio et al.

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In Section 14 of the Action the Examiner has rejected claims 6, 9, 12, and 15 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over EP 0797197 and further in view of Official notice. This rejection is respectfully traversed. As already stated above, the priority date of the present application antedates the publication date of EP 0797197. As a consequence, such reference cannot be cited as a prior art.

In Section 16 of the Action, the Examiner has rejected claims 6, 9, 12 and 15 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over EP 0757506 and further in view of Official notice. This rejection is respectfully traversed. As already explained with reference to the rejection in section 15, EP 0757506 does not disclose aggregate attribute information like the information 13 in Fig. 4 of the present application.

For the reasons explained above, favorable reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested.

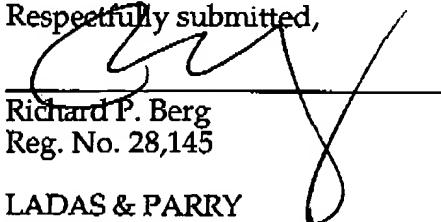
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The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required or credit overpayment to deposit account no. 12-0415. In particular, if this response is not timely filed, then the Commissioner is authorized to treat this response as including a petition to extend the time period pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136 (a) requesting an extension of time of the number of months necessary to make this response timely filed and the petition fee due in connection therewith may be charged to deposit account no. 12-0415.

Respectfully submitted,

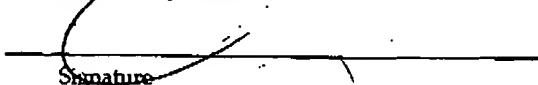

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Enclosures - Check for two-month extension of time (by mail)
Petition for two-month extension of time (by fax and mail)
Copy of claim to priority (by fax and mail)
Copy of USPTO receipt of claim to priority w/ priority document (by fax and mail)
English translation of priority document (by mail)
Postcard (by mail)

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington, D.C. 20231 on April 2, 2001.

Richard P. Berg
(Name of Applicant, Assignee
or Registered Representative)


Signature

April 2, 2001

Date

APPENDIX

17. (Amended) An information storage medium comprising:

a plurality of units of audio information, each unit of audio information to be reproduced independently of each other;

a plurality of units of aggregate audio information, each unit of aggregate audio information being associated to one or more of said units of audio information;

a plurality of unit [unitary] attribute information [units], each unit [unitary] attribute information [unit] indicating attribute of the units of audio information associated to the units of aggregate audio information; and

[a plurality of] an aggregate attribute information [units, each unit of aggregate attribute information] including a plurality of unit attribute information corresponding to the aggregate audio information.

18. (Amended) A storage medium according to claim 17, wherein said unit [unitary] attribute information and said aggregate attribute information [units] are located at different locations of the storage medium.